

Lecture Module - Introduction

ME3023 - Measurements in Mechanical Systems

Mechanical Engineering

Tennessee Technological University

Topic 1 - Introduction

Module 1 - Introduction

- Topic 1 - General Measurement System
- Topic 2 - Types of Variables
- Topic 3 - Experimental Test Plan
- Topic 4 - Numbers and Storage

Topic 1 - General Measurement System

- Definition of a Measurement
- Measurement System Stages
- Brainstorming Activity
- Examples in Mechanical Engineering

Definition of a Measurement

“A **measurement** is an act of assigning a specific value to a physical variable.”

Text: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

Measurement System Stages

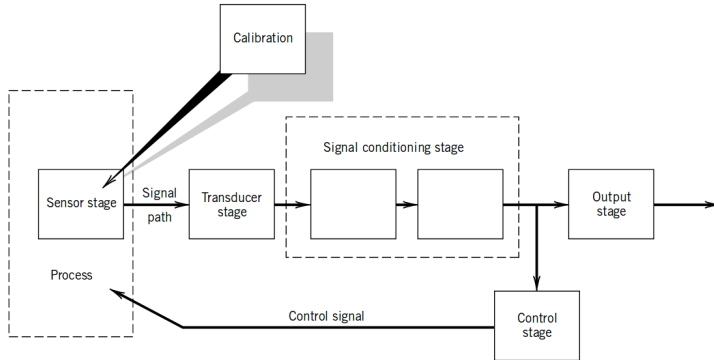
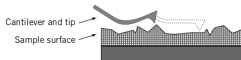


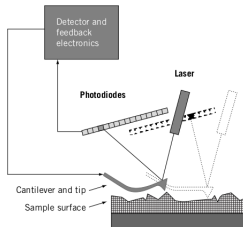
Figure 1.5 Components of a general measurement system.

Sensor-Transducer Stage

a **sensor**, a physical element that employs some natural phenomenon... ..to sense the variable being measured



Sensor Stage

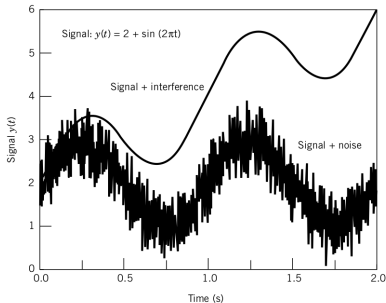


Sensor + Transducer Stage

A **transducer** converts sensed information into a detectable signal

Text, Image: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

Signal Conditioning Stage



- Filtering
- Amplification
- Attenuation
- Excitation
- Linearization
- Electrical Isolation
- Surge Protection

Question: What is the the definition of **signal**?

Image: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

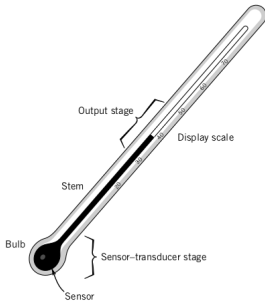
Defintion of a signal

Signal (noun): *a : an object used to transmit or convey information beyond the range of human voice b : the sound or image conveyed in telegraphy, telephony, radio, radar, or television c : a detectable physical quantity or impulse (such as a voltage, current, or magnetic field strength) by which messages or information can be transmitted* - [Merrian Webster](#)

In signal processing, a signal is a function that conveys information about a phenomenon.[1] Any quantity that can vary over space or time can be used as a signal to share messages between observers.[2] The IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing includes audio, video, speech, image, sonar, and radar as examples of signals.[3] A signal may also be defined as any observable change in a quantity over space or time (a time series), even if it does not carry information. - [Wikipedia](#)

Output Stage

The **output stage** indicates or records the value measured. This might be a simple readout display, a marked scale, or even a recording device such as a computer disk drive.



Brainstorming Activity

Activity: Team Brainstorm
Duration: ~ 10 minutes
Groups: 2-3 members



Topic: Remote Probe Concept

- You are designing a remote probe to inspect an environment which can only be accessed from above.
- The goal is to collect as much information as possible from the environment to prepare for a robotic maintenance task.

Requirements:

- Probe must enter environment through hole ~ 100mm wide
- Probe must exit through same hole leaving nothing behind
- The allowable EMI and RFI is limited. No wifi communication is available

Examples in Mechanical Engineering

IDETC2022-96785: Development of an Instrumented Rear Suspension to Measure the Tire Forces of a Race Car During Track Driving



Examples in Mechanical Engineering

IDETC2022-91154: Photometric Stereo Enhanced Light Sectioning
Measurement for Microtexture Road Profiling



Examples in Mechanical Engineering

IDETC2022-90082: Automated Weld Path Generation Using
Random Sample Consensus and Iterative Closest Point Workpiece
Localization



Topic 2 - Types of Variables

- Measured Variable
- Independent and Dependent Variables
- Controlled Variables and Parameters
- Extraneous Variables

Measured Variable

“A _____ is an act of assigning a specific value to a physical variable. That physical variable is the **measured variable.**”

Text: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

Independent and Dependent Variables

“If a change in one variable will not affect the value of some other variable, the two are considered independent of each other. A variable that can be changed independently of other variables is known as an _____. A variable that is affected by changes in one or more other variables is known as a _____. Normally, the variable that we measure depends on the value of the variables that control the process.”

Text: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

Controlled Variables and Parameters

“A variable is _____ if it can be held at a constant value or at some prescribed condition during a measurement...
...complete control of a variable is not usually possible. We use the adjective _____ to refer to a variable that can be held as prescribed, at least in a nominal sense...

...we define a _____ as a functional grouping of variables. For example, a moment of inertia or a Reynolds number...
...A _____ that has an effect on the behavior of the measured variable is called a control _____....”

Text: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

Extraneous Variables

“Variables that are not or cannot be controlled during measurement but that affect the value of the variable measured are called _____ . Their influence can confuse the clear relation between cause and effect in a measurement...
...The effects due to _____ can take the form of signals superimposed onto the measured signal with such forms as _____ and drift.”

Text: Theory and Design of Mech. Meas.

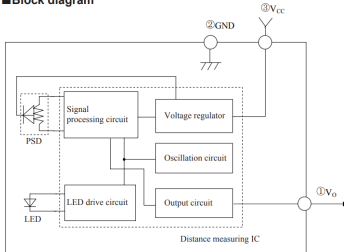
Class Activity: Measurement System Examples

Individual Activity: Complete the activity and submit your work on ilearn *as an individual*.

Example 1: SHARP IR Ranger



■ Block diagram



Image, More Info: [Wikipedia-proximity sensor](#)
Image, More Info: [Wikipedia-PSD](#)

Identify the following measurement stages

- Sensor: _____
- Transducer: _____
- Signal Conditioning: _____
- Output: _____

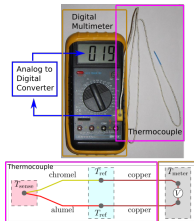
Name at least one for each of the following categories

- Measured Variable: _____
- Independent Variable(s): _____
- Dependent Variable(s): _____
- Controlled Variable(s): _____
- Extraneous Variable(s): _____

Class Activity: Measurement System Examples

Individual Activity: Complete the activity and submit your work on ilearn *as an individual*.

Example 2: Thermocouple with DMM



Identify the following measurement stages

- Sensor: _____
- Transducer: _____

● Signal Conditioning: _____

● Output: _____

Name at least one for each category

● Measured Variable: _____

● Independent Variable(s):
_____, _____

● Dependent Variable(s):
_____, _____

● Controlled Variable(s): _____

● Extraneous Variable(s): _____

Image, More Info: [Wikipedia-Thermocouple](#) Image, More Info: [Omega-Ktype Thermocouple](#)